Consent - What is it?

When a person gives consent, it means they give their free and willing permission. The following are situations in which, no matter what, a person cannot give consent:

- Under the age
- Under the influence
- Scared or threatened
- Blackmailed or coerced
- Physically forced
- Sleeping or passed out
- Persons with disabilities who have guardians

What is age of consent?
It’s the age a person can legally consent to sex. If a person has sex with someone under the age of consent, it is called statutory rape.

In Kansas, the age of consent is 16.
In Missouri, the age of consent is 17.

If You Know Someone Who is a Victim of Sexual Assault:

- Give referral to a MOCSA’s 24 hour crisis line.
- Be patient and sensitive.
- Remain calm and remember to support the victim. Negative reactions from family and friends can worsen the impact of sexual assault.
- Don’t ask judgmental questions.
- Don’t make victim blaming statements.
- Remember it is never the victims fault!
- Validate the victim’s feelings and emotions.

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